

## Riviera Garden Club



### Presidents' Message

#### With Appreciation

Thank you for your support in re-electing us for the 2013-2014 year. We have been fortunate to have such great officers and committee chairs. We thank the officers who have agreed to stay on. Thanks to **Gloria Rezek** for her service and **Sheila Kutkus** for joining the Executive Board!

We are starting to call members about being committee chairs. We know we will need a new Telephone chair, as well as a new Library chair. Many thanks to **Marilyn Barker** and **Lynn Stern** for their years of productive work.

Most of you should have gotten your last printed issue of the quarterly CGCI *Golden Gardens*. This quarterly has been replaced by an online monthly. The editor has added everyone's email to the subscription list, except for a few people who asked not to be added. You may unsubscribe if you wish.

— **Geneva Martin & Nancy Weaver**

### March 26 Meeting

If you're a succulent lover (and who isn't?) you won't want to miss this month's meeting featuring local succulent expert, **Jackie Johnson**, whose topic is *Designing with Succulents*. You will learn how to create mini-gardens using succulent species of different colors, shapes, sizes, and textures. An instructor at the SCBG, Jackie has won numerous awards for her artistic designs. **Note:** her presentation will begin at **10:00 a.m.**

### April 23 Meeting

African Violets may be a mystery to many, but not to our April speaker, **Leonard Re**. Not only is Mr. Re an accomplished grower of African Violets, but he is also an Accredited National Judge. So, if you've been curious about just what it takes to grow these beautiful plants successfully, come to this meeting, bring a friend, and grow violets!

#### Inside this issue:

Designs for Dining	2
RGC Plant Sale	2
Mad Hatters Luncheon	2
Landscape Awards	3
District Events	3
Compliance Corner	3
Sunshine Bouquet	4
Along the Garden Path	4
Calendar of Events	4

### 2013-2014 Newly-Elected Officers

- Co-Presidents:* **Geneva Martin** and **Nancy Weaver**
- 1st VPs:* **Marilyn Rubin** and **Carole Lefevre**
- 2nd VP:* **Gay Hargrave**
- 3rd VPs:* **Allison Jones** and **Marybeth Muir**
- Co-Secretaries:* **Toni Ziegler** and **Sheila Kutkus**
- Treasurer:* **TBD**

### RGC Fundraiser Coming March 27!



Not only is this year's fundraiser *fun*, but it's also *magic!* As you will see on March 27 at the **Comedy & Magic Club** in Hermosa Beach, starting at 6:30 for dinner and 8:00 for the show. The cost of a ticket is a mere \$20, all of which is donated to our Club. There is a minimum two-item purchase per person (food or drink). Reservations are required. If coming for dinner (optional), plan to arrive at 6:30. Bring a friend and carpool if possible; parking is limited. Contact **Pam Barrett** for tickets, and **don't miss out on the Fun!**

### Upcoming Excursions

Vice President **Marilyn Rubin** has arranged for two exciting day trips by bus, coming up:

Tuesday, **March 12**, 9:30

**L.A. Zoo & Botanical Gardens**

\$20; bring own water and lunch or buy lunch there

Tuesday, **May 28**, 9:30

**Environmental Nature Center, Newport Beach & Sherman Gardens, Corona del Mar**

\$45; includes lunch & snack; bring your own water

**Meet the bus at Lago Seco Park at 9:15 a.m. for each trip. Contact Marilyn to register.**

## Designs for Dining

March 8 & 9 was the Designs for Dining event at St. Francis Episcopal Church. RGC had a Moroccan theme, with floral designs by **Toni Sargent**. Contributors **not** pictured below: **Cavin Shorter**, **Sharon Ratterree**, **Barbara Bratcher-Ott**, and **Pam Barrett**.



Moroccan Night, featuring authentic vintage cloth, tapestry, Moroccan shoes and tea carafe. Even the flowers are native!



Table Designers: Toni Sargent, Dina Willey, Karen Lent, Claudeene Lyon, and Alberta Brice.

### RGC's Plant Sale!!

Scholarship Fundraiser! Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Get out the seeds, seedlings, planters and stakes. It's time to prepare your plants for our annual Plant Sale at the home of **Bertie Wood**, 2814 Winlock Rd., Torrance 90505. Club member **Tecki Poletti** will demonstrate her succulent wreaths in the morning *and* afternoon.

According to **Nan Clancy**, this year's hostess, "Not only do we need your plants, which you have lovingly grown, but we really need your creativity and cookies! Three large or 4 small cookies in a small zipper bag will sell for 50 cents." Do you have other items that bargain hunters would love? Nan explains, "We need to raise at least \$1,000 to provide a scholarship, as we have in past years. Everyone's participation is needed." So please bring those ceramic pots or garden ornaments that you no longer want and are in good condition. Someone will love them, and the student who wins our scholarship will love *you* even more!

A **Succulent Workshop** will be held on Tuesday, March 19th, 1:30, at the home of **Pati Johnson**. Bring your small succulents to Pati's yard and help make small containers that, after being nurtured about six weeks, will be distributed to patients at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.



Welcome to Our Newest Members! **Carol Harrison & Connie Moseley** joined us in February.

### "Mad Hatters" Is Coming!

It will soon be time to decorate a hat with flowers for our annual *Mad Hatters Luncheon*, scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 11:30 a.m., at The Cheesecake Factory. **Emily Lacina**, this year's hostess, asks, "Please plan to sign up and bring your check for \$40 to the March 26 meeting, if possible, so you are sure to have a seat. We're planning an exciting event you will really enjoy!" As usual, carpooling is encouraged, as valet parking will cost \$2.50.

### Blue Star Marker

I stopped to talk with someone watering the plants at the Blue Star Marker. Her name was Sarah Gelsko, a Blue Star Mother (she has two sons who are Marines), and lives on Via el Chico. She is well-acquainted with the firefighters at the fire station on Calle Mayor, as they rescued her when she had a brain aneurism. In appreciation, she regularly brings them home-baked treats. Lucky Lady!

— Geneva Martin

# Outstanding Landscape Awards

The Riviera Garden Club, in conjunction with the Riviera Homeowners' Association, proudly congratulates these Riviera homeowners, with appreciation for beautifully enhancing our area and community.



Feb. 2013—The Cross Residence—651 Calle Miramar  
A fountain, pavers, and Moorish picture window evoke an earlier era with period architecture and aged wood doors.

Mar. 2013—The Odom Residence—106 Via Monte d'Oro  
Eucalyptus trees and queen palms shade a stone walkway that leads to an iron entry gate and fountain courtyard.

## District Events

Costa Verde District is sponsoring a trip to the **Costa Mesa Flower Show** at South Coast Plaza on April 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you don't want to drive, a bus will leave from Peck Park, 560 No. Western Ave., San Pedro. Send a check for \$12 (made out to the Costa Verde District) to **Lorraine Orneles**, 2731 So. Kerckhoff Ave., San Pedro 90731. Call Lorraine at 310-833-9723 for bus departure time, etc.

The *Rose Society* is presenting **Mark Comon**, the owner of Paul's Photo in Torrance. He will be giving a presentation entitled *The Art of Photographing Plants and Flowers*. Their meeting will be held at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Classroom A.

The *South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society* will be hosting its **41st Annual Show & Sale** at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 & 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They will feature outstanding rare and unusual plants and displays, expert tips on landscaping, and a huge sale of succulents and cactus. You don't have to be a succulent enthusiast to enjoy this show, but you may be when you leave!

*Judy Unrine*, CGCI Reforestation Chair, announced that the **Reforestation Fund** now has enough money for its first project, which is an expansion of the Penny Pines program.



## Compliance Corner By George Unrine Tax Deductions

After incorporation last year, the Riviera Garden Club applied to convert its **group** tax exempt status Section 501(c)3 to **individual** tax exempt status Section 501(c)3. If our application is successful, which we believe it should be, the new status should be retroactive to July 12, 2012, and dues and contributions paid after incorporation will be tax deductible.

Before incorporation, RGC was under the CGCI group and those dues and contributions are deductible. However, we may not receive official confirma-

tion of the new status (and tax deductibility) from the Internal Revenue Service until later, so you should consult with your tax advisor as to how to handle such items in preparing your 2012 individual income tax returns.

## Member News

Co-President **Geneva Martin** has been appointed to the Environmental Quality Commission for the City of Torrance. Congratulations, Geneva!

Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow

# Riviera Garden Club

## Sea Breeze



*Sea Breeze* is a bi-monthly publication for the members of the Riviera Garden Club, Inc., a non-profit, philanthropic organization of the South Bay.

Editor: *Dina Wiley*

Riviera Garden Club  
 P. O. Box 10112  
 Torrance, CA 90505  
 Website: [www.RivieraGardenClub.org](http://www.RivieraGardenClub.org)  
 E-mail: [President@RivieraGardenClub.org](mailto:President@RivieraGardenClub.org)



### A Sunshine Bouquet for . . .

**June Stevenson**, whose husband, **Chet**, passed away on February 20th. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 3:00 p.m., at the Green Hills Memorial Park Chapel. Please advise **Geneva Martin** if you plant to attend.

### Calendar of Events

- Mar 12 9:30-4 Bus Tour: LA Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Mar 19 9:30 Board Meeting at **Nancy Weaver's** home  
1:30 Succulent workshop at **Pati Johnsons** home
- Mar 26 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport  
**Hostesses: Laurie Vaillant, Jeannie Brown, Linda LoConte**
- Mar 27 6:30 **Comedy & Magic Club** Evening Fundraiser
- Apr 16 9:30 Board Meeting at **Gay Hargrave's** home
- Apr 23 9:30 Member Meeting at the Airport  
**Hostesses: Alberta Brice, Wendy Tsuji, Pam Barrett**
- May 4 9 to 3 RGC Plant Sale at **Bertie Woods'** home
- May 21 9:30 Board Meeting at **Marilyn Rubin's** home
- May 28 9:30 Bus Tour to Environmental Nature Center  
to 4:30 & Sherman Gardens
- Jun 11 11:30 Officer Installation & Madhatters Luncheon



Along the Garden Path

If you are interested in learning more about vegetable gardening, you may want to join **Judi Gerber** at Columbia Park Community Garden. Known for her classes at Torrance Memorial, she also runs the Learning Garden for TMMC, and holds both lecture and demonstration classes. Topics include: *Create Your Own Living Lettuce Bowl, Seed Starting, Totally Tomatoes, Preparing the Summer Garden*. First class is Monday, March 11, 9:00 a.m.; bring a container for your lettuce bowl. Fee is \$10 per class. To register, call 310-517-4711, or visit [www.TorranceMemorial.org/Health\\_Education/Classes/Health\\_and\\_Wellness.aspx](http://www.TorranceMemorial.org/Health_Education/Classes/Health_and_Wellness.aspx). Under *Gardening*, click on *Register* to read all the details about the classes, location, etc.

So many seeds — so little time!

### Happy Birthday, Members!



#### March

- 1 Cecilia Ceasar
- 8 Gloria Rezek
- 9 Sharon Ratterree
- 20 Tony Sargent
- 26 Alberta Brice
- 28 Eunice Hargrove
- 31 Carole Lefevre

#### April

- 4 Allison Jones
- 7 Pat Reid
- 11 Pam Barrett
- 19 Betty Moye
- 19 Colleen O'Neill
- 27 Phyllis Roth